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Attorney Docket No.: 08305/0

ABSTRACT

An active pixel sensor (APS) includes an array of individually addressable APS cells ad a pixel readout structure that includes an amplifier. The amplifier may have a two-branched structure and provide a gain of one or higher. Additional switches may be provided in the pixels to provide protection for pixel output transistors from voltage changes in the column line. Structure may also be provided for optional gain selection in the amplifier.